

# Machine Converts LP Tanks Into Burn Barrels And More

Over the years we've seen a lot of uses for old LP tanks, but the idea of cutting one up is a daunting proposition for many people. That's why we were amazed to get a look at Don Schley's operation in Elk Mound, Wis.

"We buy a lot of used 500-gal. LP tanks and refurbish them for individuals so people can own their own tanks," says Schley. "Some of the tanks can't be reused for gas so we made a machine to cut the tanks into fire rings, hot water boilers, culverts, burn barrels, and more."

They made the machine out of parts they already had laying around except for the variable speed control, which they bought for \$185. The machine cradles the tank on 8 rubber wheels – 4 idlers and 4 drivers – and rolls the tank while it's being cut with a plasma cutter that mounts on a metal arm. "It takes about 3 min. for each cut on 3/8-in. thick tanks," says Schley. "Older tanks will be 1/2 to 5/16 in. thick; 1970's and newer tanks will be 1/4 in. thick or less."

"We usually cut fire rings from 12 to 18 in. high. We cut some tanks in the middle for use as burn barrels. On other tanks we cut off one end to make boilers, or both ends to make culverts."

He sells fire rings and flower pots for \$50 to \$75, or \$40 to \$60 for orders of 10 or more. Burn barrels sell for \$150, and boilers for \$300. Whole unrefurbished tanks sell for \$250, and refurbished tanks for \$500 to \$600.

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Home-built machine is designed to cut old 500-gal. LP tanks into fire rings, burn barrels, and more.



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Schley cuts fire rings from 12 to 18 in. high (left). On other tanks he cuts off one end to make boilers, or both ends to make culverts.



Boaz Mini Combine is designed to harvest grain from small plots. Mini combine has twin cutter bars - one mounted on the gathering reel to clip the grain heads, and the other mounted near ground level for cutting straw.

## Mini Combine Harvests Smaller Farm Fields

You can harvest grain from small plots for your family's personal needs with a Boaz Mini Combine. It's easy to plant small plots of grain and seeds for personal use. However, commercial combines are too big, and harvesting by hand is slow and hard. One of the few alternatives to large commercial combines or refurbished old, smaller combines has been research plot harvesters.

"Research combines are very expensive, but the Boaz is reasonably priced and designed for small grain plots," says Eddie Qi, EQ Machinery. "It's made in China and assembled here in the U.S. Most of the parts can be found off-the-shelf if repairs are needed. Other parts will be available by order."

Qi heard about the Boaz from a friend and began importing them. He says reaction to the small combine has been positive with small farms, religious communities and local groups buying and sharing the combines.

"It's ideal for the small landholder who wants to raise an acre or two of grain for a few animals or his family, a baker who wants to raise his own grain for making flour, or for those who simply want to control their food supply," says Qi. "It's popular with people who want organic, non GMO grain."

The Boaz has a very simple, yet unique design with twin cutter bars. The forward cutting bar is mounted on the gathering reel to clip the grain head. The height is controlled by a hand-operated hydraulic lift. A second cutter bar with mechanical height control is mounted near ground level

ahead of the drive wheels for cutting straw. A threshing system mounts over the front drive wheels.

The grain and straw heads are augured to the feeder housing and then into an axial flow threshing chamber where the grain is separated from the straw. Grain and non-grain materials fall through a sieve. A manually damped vacuum on the cyclone separator pulls the chaff off. The grain falls into a bag on a platform beneath the separator.

"The grain needs additional cleaning for storage or sale," says Qi. "We suggest running it through a stationary seed cleaner."

The combine weighs only 948 lbs. It's 11 ft. long, 5 1/2 ft. wide and 4 1/3 ft. tall. It has a rated cutting width of 2 1/2 ft. and a feeding capacity of less than a pound per second. It's powered by a 13 hp, EPA certified, gas engine.

"It has a loss rate of less than 2 percent for wheat and a crushing rate of less than 2 percent," says Qi. "It's intended for small plots, our mini combine can harvest quarter acre an hour."

The Boaz Mini Combine is designed for wheat, oats, rye, barley and other small grains, as well as sunflowers and other small oil seeds.

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